

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.     A system for formatting a document, comprising:  
a source document having at least one document element;  
a target document;  
a formatting component operative to copy the document  
element from the source document and to paste the document element into  
10 the target document; and  
a formatting rules component containing at least one formatting  
rule, an associated formatting action, and an associated recovery action;  
wherein the formatting component formats the document  
element in accordance with the formatting action, in response to a  
15 determination that the formatting rule has been triggered; and  
wherein the formatting component performs the recovery  
action, in response to receiving a recovery selection.

2. A method for formatting a document element, the method comprising:

determining the selection of the document element in a source document;

5 determining whether a first formatting rule applies to the selection of the document element;

formatting the document element in response to a determination that the first formatting rule applies to the selection of the document element;

10 determining the selection of a paste point;

determining whether a second formatting rule applies to the selection of the paste point;

15 formatting the document element in response to a determination that the second formatting rule applies to the selection of the document element; and

pasting the document element into a target document.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of: displaying an available recovery action;

20 determining whether the available recovery action has been selected; and

re-formatting the document element in accordance with the recovery action, in response to the determination that the recovery action has been selected.

4. A method for adding and eliminating a paragraph mark from a document element selected from a paragraph in a source document, the method comprising:

determining the selection of the document element;

5 determining the portion of the paragraph represented by the document element;

determining whether a first paragraph mark is included in the document element;

10 determining whether a selection action indicates a desire to select the entire paragraph;

adding a second paragraph mark to the document element, in response to a determination that the entire paragraph has been selected and that the first paragraph mark has not been included in the document element;

15 eliminating the first paragraph mark from the document element, in response to a determination that the entire paragraph has been selected and that the selection action does not indicate a desire to select the entire paragraph.

20 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the selection of the document element includes an instruction to copy the document element.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein the selection of the document element includes an instruction to cut the document element.

7. The method of Claim 4, wherein the determination of whether the selection action indicates a desire to select the entire paragraph comprises determining whether the selection cursor has been moved in a leftward direction.

8. A method for eliminating a paragraph mark from a document element selected from a source document, the method comprising:  
determining the selection of the document element in the source document;

5 determining a paste point in a target document;  
determining whether a first paragraph mark is included in the document element;

determining whether the paste point is within a second paragraph in the target document; and

10 eliminating the first paragraph mark from the document element, in response to a determination that the paste point is within the second paragraph in the target document and that the first paragraph mark is included in the document element.

15 9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:  
determining whether the document element is a list item;  
determining whether the paste point is within a list in the target document; and

20 eliminating the first paragraph mark from the document element, in response to a determination that the paste point is within the list in the target document, that the first paragraph mark is included in the document element, and that the document element is not a list item.

10. A method for defining a formatting style in a target document, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the selection of the document element in the source document, the document element having an associated formatting style;

5 determining a paste point in a target document, the target document having a corresponding formatting style;

receiving an instruction to paste the document element in the target document at the paste point;

10 determining whether the corresponding formatting style and the associated formatting style are identical;

determining whether the corresponding formatting style has been used or redefined in the target document;

15 defining the corresponding formatting style to be identical to the associated formatting style, in response to a determination that the corresponding formatting style and the associated formatting style are not identical and that the corresponding formatting style has been used or redefined in the target document.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
pasting the document element in the target document at the  
paste point;

applying the associated style to the pasted document element;

5 and

renaming the associated style, in response to a determination  
that the corresponding formatting style has been used or redefined in the  
target document and that the corresponding formatting style and the  
associated formatting style are not identical.

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12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
determining whether the corresponding formatting style  
belongs to a formatting style group;

determining whether a member formatting style in the  
15 formatting style group has been used or redefined in the target document;

applying the associated style to the pasted document element;  
and renaming the associated style, in response to a determination that the  
member formatting style in the formatting style group has been used or  
redefined in the target document and that the corresponding formatting style  
20 and the associated formatting style are not identical.

13. A method for eliminating empty paragraphs from a document, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the selection of a document element in a source document;

5 determining a first number of preceding empty paragraphs adjacent to the document element;

determining a first number of following empty paragraphs adjacent to the document element;

10 determining a total of the first number of preceding empty paragraphs and the first number of preceding empty paragraphs;

eliminating the following empty paragraphs from the source document, in response to a determination that the total is less than a first predetermined threshold value.

15 14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

determining a paste point in a target document;

determining a second number of preceding empty paragraphs adjacent to the paste point;

20 determining a second number of following empty paragraphs adjacent to the paste point;

determining a total of the second number of preceding empty paragraphs and the second number of preceding empty paragraphs;

25 eliminating at least one following empty paragraphs from the target document, in response to a determination that the total is less than a second predetermined threshold value.



15. A method for merging and creating a list, the method comprising:

determining the selection of a document element in a source document;

5 determining a paste point in a target document;

determining whether the document element is a first list item;

determining whether the paste point is adjacent to a second list item in a first list in the target document;

10 pasting the document element as a third list item in the first list, in response to a determination that the document element is the first list item and that the paste point is adjacent to the second list item in the first list in the target document.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the following steps:

displaying a recovery action user interface; and

removing the third list item from the first list and pasting the document element as a first item in a second list, in response to receiving a recovery action selection.

17. A method for formatting a table in a target document, the method comprising the steps of:

determining the selection of a document element in a source document;

5 determining whether the document element is a first table item;  
determining a paste point in a target document;  
determining whether the paste point is adjacent to a first table in the target document;

10 merging the document element with the first table, in response to a determination that the document element is the first table item and that the paste point is adjacent to the first table in the target document.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:  
displaying a recovery action user interface; and

15 removing the document element from the first table and pasting the document element as an independent table in the target document, in response to receiving a recovery action selection.

19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

20 determining whether the paste point is within the first table in the target document;

25 pasting the document element into the first table as a nested table, in response to a determination that the document element is the first table item and that the paste point is within the first table in the target document.

20. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:  
determining whether the document element is a single table  
cell;

5 pasting the document element into the target document as a  
non-table text item, in response to a determination that the document  
element is the single table cell.

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21. A method for pasting spreadsheet elements, the method comprising:

determining the selection of a spreadsheet element having a first set of formatting properties in a source document;

5 determining a paste point in a target document;

pasting the spreadsheet element as a table in the target document with the first set of formatting properties applied thereto;

displaying a recovery action user interface; and

10 removing the table from the target document and pasting the spreadsheet element as a table in the target document with a second set of formatting properties applied thereto.

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